

Kadhafi set for battle  
of Tripoli pg 2



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# THE MORNING NEWS

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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

## Meet the new ATA team; an historic day for the Aruba Tourism Authority

The full realization of the Aruba Tourism Authority, ATA, as an independently operating private entity within the public system, was celebrated on Thursday evening, February 25, with a festive cocktail hour at the Marriott Aruba Resort & Stellaris Casino.

The freshly streamlined staff of the ATA, many veteran employees, greeted parliamentarians and island dignitaries along with media and executive personnel from the private sector of tourism for the official introduction of the ATA team and their leader, CEO Mrs. Ronella Tjin-Asjoe – Croes, a native Aruban who ably headed the Tourism Corporation of Bonaire for 6 years prior to accepting this position.

Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber officially welcomed the gathering. "Today, we're celebrating a milestone that has been on every government's agenda for the past 25 years: the introduction of the Aruba Tourism Authority as a unique independent entity within the public sphere. I'm especially proud of this accomplishment, because it has been a work of intense labor in a very short period of time



by many individuals and organizations together with the government." He cited the special partnership the Aruban government has always had with this area of the private sector, and their recognition of the Ministry of Tourism as a particularly im-

portant entity in the island's economy. This has prompted legislators to pass the laws enabling an independent fund to finance the ATA and its marketing efforts, as well as another to enhance the tourism product, which is replenished by room taxes.

"The Board of the TPEF, the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund, is working effectively and enthusiastically, funding projects that enhance the beauty of the island and create more opportunities for sustainable development," explained Minister Oduber. "All the projects financed by the TPEF contribute greatly to an even more pleasurable experience for our visitors, which we know plays an important role in positive 'word of mouth'.... Increasing the quality of the tourism experience forms part of my short and medium term tourism policy; at the end of this year,



Jim Hepping, CEO AHATA, Ronella Tjin Asjoe Croes and Paul Croes



Former ATA Director Myrna Janssen and Minister Oduber

I will also present a Strategic Tourism Master Plan which I have commissioned to the University of Central Florida

in cooperation with local stakeholders."

Continued on page 3



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**TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC**

## Kadhafi set for battle of Tripoli

TRIPOLI, Libya (AFP) – An embattled Moamer Kadhafi said he would throw open the country's arsenals to his supporters in a rabble-rousing speech that presaged a bloody battle for the Libyan capital.

In a brief but chilling address in Tripoli's Green Square, Kadhafi told hundreds of cheering supporters to prepare themselves for a fight to defend the city.

His loyalists had earlier killed several people in shooting that spread through the capital and French President Nicolas Sarkozy became the first world leader to openly demand the Libyan leader's ouster.

As outraged Western governments scrambled to craft a collective response to a bloody crackdown which has claimed hundreds of lives, the United States said it was moving ahead with unilateral and multilateral sanctions against

the regime.

The European Union agreed to slap an arms embargo, asset freezes and travel bans on Libya.

The move came hours before the UN Security Council was due to meet to discuss options to respond to Libya's repression of its people, and following complaints that the international response was too slow.

UN chief Ban Ki-moon urged the Security Council to take "decisive action" on the crisis where he said more than 1,000 people have now been killed. "Loss of time means more loss of lives," he told the 15-nation council.

In a rooftop address, Kadhafi called on his partisans in



the square below to "defend Libya." "If needs be, we will open all the arsenals."

"We will fight them and we will beat them," he said as frenzied supporters raised portraits of the leader and waved the country's green flag.

Almost the entire east of the oil-rich North African country has slipped from Kadhafi's control since a popular uprising began with protests in the port city of Benghazi on February 15.

raising his arms and shaking his fists during the brief appearance while shouting that the Libyan people "love Kadhafi." "Life without dignity has no value, life without green flags has no value," Kadhafi told them. "Sing, dance and prepare yourselves."

Some of the crowd chanted "God, Moamer, Libya and that's all."

This was Kadhafi's third public statement this week.

Hundreds of people have been killed in a brutal crackdown, and tens of thousands of foreigners have scrambled to leave the country.

State television showed the 68-year-old leader re-

He previously called on his followers to crush the insurrection and later said Al-Qaeda was behind what he called "drug crazed mobs" of young people trying to unseat him.

In Ankara, meanwhile, Sarkozy said "Mr Kadhafi must go," becoming the first world leader to demand the ouster of the 68-year-old former army colonel who seized power in a 1969 coup.

"The systematic violence against the Libyan people is unacceptable and will be the subject of investigations and sanctions," Sarkozy added at a joint news conference with Turkish counterpart Abdullah Gul.

In Tripoli, security forces opened fire indiscriminately on worshippers leaving prayers, desperate to prevent any new protests on the weekly Muslim day of rest, residents told AFP by telephone.

## WikiLeaks' Assange appeals against extradition



LONDON, England (AFP) – WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange vowed he was ready to fight a lengthy legal battle after a British judge ruled he should be extradited to Sweden to face allegations of rape.

Lawyers for the 39-year-old Australian said they would appeal against judge Howard Riddle's decision to reject defence arguments that Assange would face an unfair trial that

would breach his human rights.

Speaking after the hearing at Belmarsh Magistrates' Court in London, Assange criticised the European system under which he was detained in December over claims that he sexually abused two women in Sweden. "It is a result of the European Arrest Warrant system run amok. There was no consideration during this entire process as to the merits of the allegations against me," he told around 100 journalists from across the globe.

He has seven days to appeal and if he fails to do so he must be extradited to Sweden within 10 days of the expiry of the appeals period. Legal challenges go through Britain's High Court and can go all the way to the Supreme Court.

## 5.7 magnitude quake shakes southeast Mexico



WASHINGTON (AFP) – A strong earthquake deep underground struck southeast Mexico in Veracruz province, the US Geological Survey reported.

The 5.7-magnitude quake occurred at 7:07 am (1307 GMT) some seven kilometers (four miles) from the town of Acayucan and about 470 kilo-

meters (290 miles) east of the capital Mexico City.

No immediate injuries or damage was reported from the temblor, which struck at a depth of 132 kilometers (82 miles).

The region was the scene of devastating flooding last year that left dozens of people dead and thousands homeless.

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## Meet the new ATA team...

Continued from page 1



Jossy Lacle, Jane Semeleer and Castro Perez



ATA team members with Juan Kuyter of Brickell Bay and Pat Donovan of the Westin



A rundown of the accomplishments of the new administration over the 18 months since taking office was punctuated with the welcome announcement that Carnival Cruise Lines, which has suspended service to Aruba in 2008 because of rising costs, confirmed 24 additional calls for 2011 and 2012 high and low season, after the trial of the Carnival Miracle this past winter proved so successful.

The most important aspect of the privatized ATA is the increased efficiency, which allows its CEO to make policy and H/R decisions without the cumbersome governmental bureaucratic process. A seven-person board, consisting of tourism veterans from the public and private sector, presided over by Jossy Lacle, former director of WEB and selected by mutual agreement, has been put in

place to review and approve projects and budgets costing over a specified amount.

Ronella Tjin-Asjoe — Croes introduced the new team after sharing her aspirations as CEO of the ATA. It is her mission for the ATA “to be recognized as the leading and cutting edge Destination Marketing Organization” in the Caribbean and their vision “is to be the innovative and effective destination marketing organization that positions the brand Aruba as a premiere tourism destination, which meets the needs of its stakeholders.” She believes that applying core values of “empowerment, productivity and ownership, professionalism, fun, passion and respect,” in and for her team, will establish the level of accomplishment they seek for the new ATA.

by Rosalie Klein

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American's Got Talent, 2008 NBC-TV network

## Evacuation of Dutch citizens a difficult process

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands -- The Dutch ambassador to Tripoli Gerard Steeghs reports that Tripoli airport is still in a state of chaos as thousands of people are desperately trying to leave the country. For the second time this week, a Dutch military transport plane took off from the Tripoli airport to arrive in Sicily a few hours later.

The Dutch airforce Hercules C-130 was carrying 9 Dutch passengers and 33 people with different nationalities. The plane arrived in Libya early on Thursday morning and stayed at Tripoli airport for as long as possible. Ambassador Steeghs was in the airport terminal waving a Dutch flag

to assemble as many Dutch citizens as possible. The Dutch evacuees will due to travel from Sicily to the Netherlands yesterday.

As far as the Dutch embassy is aware, there are still 60 Dutch citizens in Libya, some of which are anxious to leave the country. One woman is stranded in Libya because she feels she cannot leave without her pets: 16 cats and two dogs. The animals are not allowed on board evacuation flights.

The frigate HNLMS Tromp, which was en route to the Indian Ocean to relieve HNLMS De Ruyter off the Somali coast, turned around while in the Red Sea and ar-

rived off the Libyan coast on Thursday.

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## Four island galleries share "A Breath of Fresh Air"



Participating artists Irene Peterson and Danilo Geerman with artist Michiko Takatsu



Social and political commentary by King Lie Kwie



Miriam de L'Isle

One of the largest cooperative art expositions Aruba has seen to date is now taking place at three locations; Ateliers '89 in Oranjestad, Insight Art Gallery and annex in Paradera Park, and the Osira Muyale Art Studio on Stadionweg, near the Cas di Cultura. The exposition of 32 island artists, "Rosea Nobo" (A Breath of Fresh Air) is dedicated to the Avant Garde School of art and opened on Friday evening, February 18. Minister of Economic and Social Affairs and Culture, Michelle Hooyboer-Winklaar, performed the official opening act at the Ateliers '89. Attendees and artists then

traveled from one gallery to the next as part of the opening night festivities.

This interesting collection includes works from beginning students, such as 17-year-old Priscilla Lacle, to accomplished veteran artists, including those who also curate the exposition, Elvis Lopez of Ateliers '89 and Alida Martinez of Insight. The mediums deployed are diverse and creative; sculpture, video, music and painting are deployed, often in combination, to bring forward a variety of messages.

Typical of this school of art is it is not comprised of pleas-



Edmond Tjeehut



Ciro Abath 2



Belinda De Veer



Ciro Abath



Artist Rob ten Haar enjoys the work of Alida Martinez

ing, pretty pictures, but will share the artists' personal pain or social or political commentary, all of which are displayed in abundance. The works require study to fully appreciate; across the board they are thought-provoking and present important issues to ponder.

Various galleries have different opening times. Contact Elvis Lopez at 565-4613 or 588-5776 for days, times and directions or Alida at 582-5882 for directions and opening hours of Insight Gallery.

by Rosalie Klein

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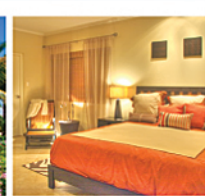
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SETAR N.V.'s campaign continues with more fabulous prizes for all its clients. Just send an SMS to number 221 with the words SETAR and you are eligible to win. The prize: a trip completely FREE to Las Vegas - hotel and expenses included - and entrance tickets to the Lady Gaga Concert. The concert is on March 25 in the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

Stefani Joanne Angelina Germanotta (born March 28, 1986), better known by her stage name Lady Gaga, is an American pop singer-

songwriter. She began performing in the rock music scene of New York City's Lower East Side in 2003 and enrolled at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. She soon signed with Streamline Records, an imprint of Interscope Records. During her early time at Interscope, she worked as a songwriter for fellow label artists and captured the attention of Akon, who recognized her vocal abilities, and signed her to his own label, Kon Live Distribution.

Gaga came to prominence following the release of her debut studio album *The Fame* (2008), which was a commercial success and achieved international popularity with the singles "Just Dance" and "Poker Face." The album reached number one on the record charts of six countries, accomplished positions within the top-ten worldwide, and topped the Billboard Dance/Electronic Albums chart while simultaneously peaking at number two on the Billboard 200 chart in the United States.

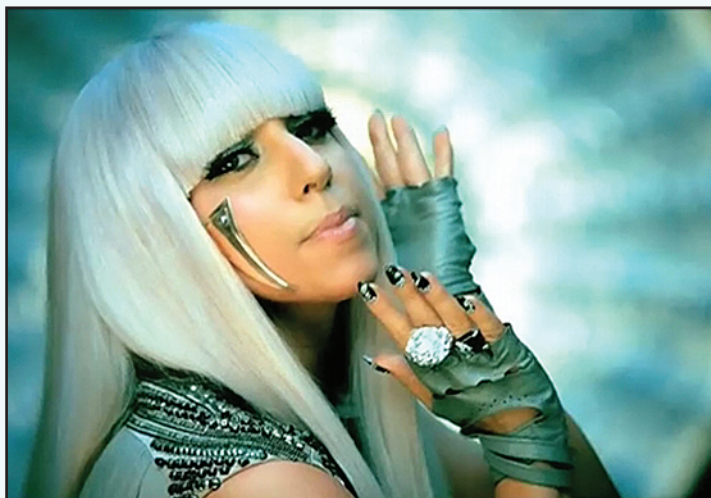
Achieving similar worldwide success, the follow-up EP *The Fame Monster* (2009) produced a further two global chart-topping singles "Bad Romance" and "Telephone" and allowed her to embark on a second global headlining concert tour, *The Monster Ball Tour*, just months after having finished her first, *The Fame Ball Tour*. Her second studio album, *Born This Way*, is scheduled for release in 2011.

Inspired by glam rock

artists like David Bowie and Queen, as well as pop singers such as Madonna and Michael Jackson, Gaga is well-recognized for her outré sense of style as a recording artist, in fashion, in performance and in her music videos. Her contributions to the music industry have garnered her numerous achievements including five Grammy Awards, amongst twelve nominations; two Guinness World Records; and the estimated sale of 15 million albums and 51 million singles worldwide. Billboard named her as the Artist of the Year in 2010 and ranked her as the 73rd Artist of the 2000s decade.

Gaga has been included in Time magazine's annual Time 100 list of the most

influential people in the world as well as Forbes' list of the 100 Most Powerful and Influential celebrities in the world. Forbes also placed her at number seven on their annual list of the World's 100 Most Powerful Women.





## Sci-Tech

## Google cooks recipes into search menu

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Google has begun cooking recipes into its search menu in a way that lets people easily find instructions for whipping up dishes in the kitchen.

A "Recipe View" feature that Google is rolling out in the United States and Japan turns the search engine into an online cook book of sorts.

"My parents follow the art of cooking by intuition, where the right amount of each spice is measured out by gut feel, but that's never worked very well for me," Google product manager Kavi Goel said while introducing Recipe View, on Thursday.

"As a math geek and computer engineer, I prefer to work with concrete numbers and instructions, including

when cooking."

The feature narrows search results to only recipes along with ratings for each option.

Recipe search terms can range from names of dishes to favored foods, such as strawberries, or holidays. Searches can be filtered by calorie count, cooking time, or ingredients.

"We like to 'eat our own dog food' at Google, meaning we like to test our own products and features ourselves before releasing them for public consumption," Goel said.

"With Recipe View, we've taken this more literally than usual."

The feature is to be rolled out to other countries after it becomes more seasoned.

## Discovery shuttle blasts off on last space odyssey

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AFP) — The shuttle Discovery blasted off on its final mission into orbit, marking the beginning of the end for what has been a central part of the US space program for three decades.

NASA's most journeyed shuttle launched at 4:53 pm (2153 GMT) on its way to the International Space Station (ISS), and when it returns next month, it will become the first of the three-member fleet to enter retirement.

"Good to be here," Discovery Commander Steve Lindsey said by radio once the shuttle reached orbit.

The shuttle was set to arrive at the ISS Saturday at 2:16 pm (1916 GMT), transporting a spare closet module and the first humanoid robot on an 11-day mission that includes two spacewalks.

"It has been a pretty tremendous day in space flight for us," said Bill Gerstenmaier, NASA associate administrator for space operations.

The US team received messages of encouragement from the Europeans after their Automated Transfer Vehicle-2 spacecraft "Johannes Kepler" docked at the ISS hours before shuttle liftoff, "which was a great way to start the day," he added.

The launch was postponed in November after cracks emerged on Discovery's bright orange external fuel

tank, causing engineers to puzzle for many weeks over the cause and how to fix it.

In January, they agreed that installing small metal strips, called radius blocks, on the 6.7-meter (22-foot) U-shaped aluminum brackets would reinforce their strength.

The end of the shuttle program will create a gaping hole in the US space program during a period of belt-tightening and budget freezes, and will leave Russia's space capsules as the sole transit option to the ISS.

## All aboard for Soviet space capsule sale

NEW YORK (AFP) — For sale: vehicle with extremely high mileage, serious damage, and a price tag in the millions. That's right -- a historic Soviet space ship.


Sotheby's in New York will auction the spherical Vostok 3KA-2 Space Capsule on April 12, the 50th anniversary of the first manned space flight by Soviet pilot Yuri Gagarin.

The pre-sale estimate is for \$2 million to \$10 million.

The battered craft has serious historical credentials as the model used for the final dummy run before Gagarin left on his mission.

"Not only are there no other examples outside of Russia of the world's first spacecraft, this capsule was pivotal in space history as providing the green light for

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## Apple MacBooks get speedier with Intel technology



SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) — Apple on Thursday unveiled an updated line of MacBook Pro laptop computers featuring new Intel "Thunderbolt" technology for moving digital films and other data "blazingly fast."

Apple upgraded the new-model laptops with the latest multi-core chips from Intel and high-definition "FaceTime" cameras for video chat and other uses.

"The new MacBook Pro brings next generation dual and quad Core processors, high performance graphics, Thunderbolt technology and FaceTime HD to the great design loved by our pro customers," said Apple senior vice president of marketing Philip Schiller.

Apple also released to software developers a preview of the next generation Macintosh operating system named "Lion," which it said "takes the best ideas from iPad and brings them to the Mac."

A finished version of Lion for Macintosh computers is on track for release in mid-2011, according to Apple.

Lion software available at the online Mac App Store was intended to allow outside developers begin crafting hip, functional or fun programs that fuel the popularity of Apple gadgets.

"The iPad has inspired a new generation of innovative features in Lion," Schiller said.

"Developers... can now start adding great new Lion features like full screen, gestures, Versions and Auto Save to their own apps."

Cupertino, California-based Apple has sold more than 15 million iPads since the tablet computers hit the

market last April.

The company has a tradition of releasing new products annually and is expected to introduce a second-generation iPad tablet computer at a March 2 press event in San Francisco.

The debut of the new MacBook Pro models came on the 56th birthday of Apple's iconic chief executive Steve Jobs, who is on an indefinite leave of absence for medical reasons but remains involved in running the company.

MacBook Pro prices ranged from \$1,199 for a 13-inch (33-centimeter) model with a 320-gigabyte hard drive to \$2,499 for a 17-inch (43-centimeter) model with a 750-gigabyte hard drive.

Apple touted the new models as being twice as fast as the prior generation, with Thunderbolt making it possible to transfer an entire Blu-ray film for viewing in less than 30 seconds.

Digital data is transferred at a rate of 10 gigabytes per second, according to Intel.

"We're thrilled to collaborate with Intel to bring the groundbreaking Thunderbolt technology to Mac users," said Mac Hardware Engineering senior vice president Bob Mansfield.

"Thunderbolt is a breakthrough for the entire industry and we think developers are going to have a blast with it."

Thunderbolt technology built into computer ports moves media faster and simplifies connections between devices, according to Intel, which demonstrated the technology Thursday at its Silicon Valley headquarters.

"Working with HD media is one of the most demanding things people do with their PCs," said Intel PC Client Group general manager





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## BRIEFS

### Health check-ups to fill Indian WCup venue:

**NEW DELHI (AFP)** - India's Eden Gardens stadium in Kolkata is drawing up plans to offer free medical check-ups to fans in a bid to fill the ground during the World Cup, a newspaper reported. Eden Gardens has been left with three games not involving the home nation after the India v England clash was moved to Bangalore as the venue was not ready on time. Under the proposal, anyone who buys tickets worth more than 750 rupees (\$16.50) will be entitled to a free blood pressure check, echocardiogram and consultation with doctors. The 67,000-seater stadium in Kolkata will host South Africa v Ireland on March 15, Ireland v the Netherlands on March 18 and Zimbabwe v Kenya on March 20.

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### New studies boost heart benefit from moderate drinking:

**PARIS (AFP)** - Two medical investigations published have strengthened arguments that modest daily consumption of alcohol is good for the heart and the blood system. People who drink alcohol in moderate amounts -- equivalent to about one drink a day or less -- are between 14 and 25 percent less likely to develop cardiovascular disease than counterparts who drink no alcohol at all, they said. The research, led by William Ghali, a professor at the University of Calgary in Canada, says moderate drinking increases levels of "good" cholesterol in the body, which has a protective effect against heart disease.

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### Greek officials on alert over swine flu death toll:

**ATHENS (AFP)** - Health officials in Greece warned the public to remain vigilant against swine flu that has so far killed 93 people, pointing to low vaccination ratios and suggesting the elderly are more at risk.

It noted that 126 people were currently in hospital with confirmed flu symptoms and that only a small number of health staff and high risk groups had taken vaccines.

In a number of serious cases patients had apparently underestimated the symptoms and were late in taking medication, it said.

The Greek interior minister was among those who caught the virus and took time off to recuperate last week according to reports. Some 150 people had died in Greece from swine flu last year.

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## Health & Living

# Hair loss

Hair loss can start with a few extra hairs in the sink or in your comb. Later, it can progress to a bare scalp.

Baldness typically refers to excessive hair loss from your scalp and can be the result of heredity, certain medications or an underlying medical condition. Anyone — men, women and children — can experience hair loss.

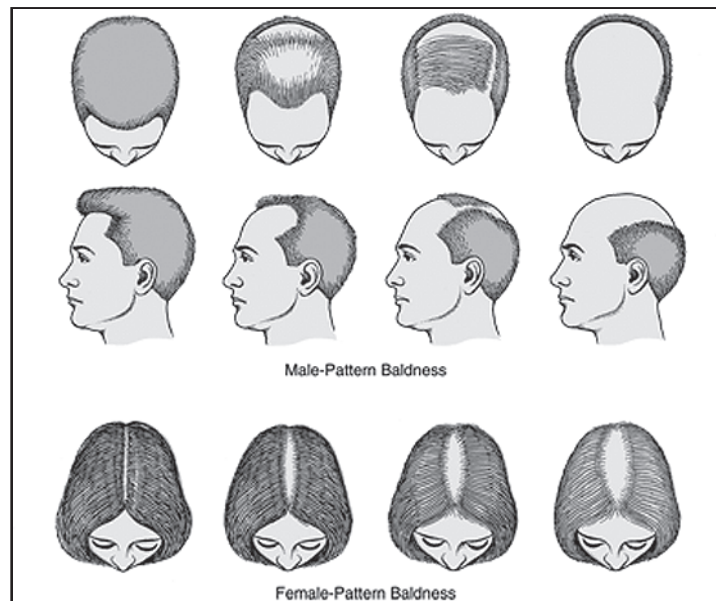
Some people prefer to let their baldness run its course untreated and unhidden. Others may cover it up with hairstyles, makeup, hats or scarves. And still others choose one of the medications and surgical procedures that are available to treat hair loss. Before pursuing any treatment option, talk with your doctor about the cause of and best possible treatments for your hair loss.

### Symptoms

The medical term for hair loss is alopecia. Pattern baldness (androgenetic alopecia), the most common type of alopecia, affects roughly one-third of men and women. It's typically permanent. Other types of alopecia are temporary, including alopecia areata. It can involve hair loss on your scalp or other parts of your body.

### Permanent hair loss

■ **Male-pattern baldness** (androgenetic alopecia). For men, pattern baldness can begin early, even in the teens or early 20s. It's typically characterized by a receding hairline at the temples and balding at the top of the head. The end result may be partial or complete



Male-Pattern Baldness

Female-Pattern Baldness

baldness.

■ **Female-pattern baldness** (androgenetic alopecia). Women with permanent hair loss usually have hair loss limited to thinning at the front, sides or crown. Women usually maintain their front hairline and rarely experience complete baldness.

■ **Cicatricial (scarring) alopecia**. This rare condition occurs when inflammation damages and scars hair follicles, causing permanent hair loss. Sometimes the patchy hair loss is associated with itching or pain.

### Temporary hair loss

■ **Alopecia areata**. Hair loss usually occurs in small, round, smooth patches about the size of a quarter. Usually the disease doesn't extend beyond a few bare patches on the scalp, but it can cause patchy hair loss on any area that has hair, including eyebrows, eyelashes and beard. In rare cases, it can progress to cause hair loss over

the entire body. If the hair loss includes your entire scalp, the condition is called alopecia totalis. If it involves your whole body, it's called alopecia universalis. Soreness and itching may precede the hair loss, but symptoms are often minimal.

■ **Telogen effluvium**. This type of temporary hair loss occurs suddenly, most often after a significant illness or major life stress. Handfuls of hair may come out when combing or washing your hair or may fall out after gentle tugging. This type of hair loss usually causes overall hair thinning and not bald patches.

■ **Traction alopecia**. Bald patches can occur if you regularly wear certain hairstyles, such as pigtails, braids or cornrows, or if you use tight rollers. Hair loss typically occurs between the rows or at the part where hair is pulled tightly.

■ **Anagen effluvium**. In this type of hair loss, actively growing hairs in the anagen state are affected most often by chemotherapeutic drugs given to fight cancer or lymphoma. Hair loss starts soon after beginning therapy and is more extensive than in the telogen effluvium state. In the weeks after the therapy has been completed, the hair cycles re-establish themselves, although the hair may not return as thickly as before chemotherapy.

### When to see a doctor

Talk to your doctor if you notice sudden or patchy hair loss or more than usual hair loss when combing or washing your hair. Sudden hair loss can signal an underlying medical condition and may require medical treatment.

No cure is available for permanent hair loss or baldness. However, you can talk to your doctor about medical treatments to slow the rate of hair loss or to hide hair loss.

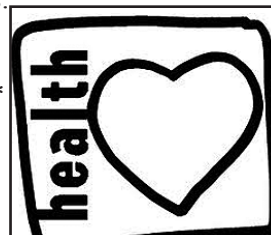
## Health Tip: Take Control of Your Health

If you have a chronic illness -- such as diabetes, arthritis or heart disease -- you can take an active role in managing your health.

*The American Academy of Family Physicians offers these self-management guidelines:*

- Examine your unhealthy behaviors, and choose which ones you'd like to change.
- Create specific goals and an action plan for how you'll reach those goals.
- Create backup plans -- for example, what you'll do for exercise when the weather is bad.
- Feel confident in your ability to reach your goals; if they seem too tough, reconsider your goals.
- Check in frequently with your doctor to discuss your progress and any problems.

\*\*\*\*\*





**A must see while on Aruba!**

## The Aruba Ostrich Farm



Welcome to an activity at Aruba you can't miss! When you think of Aruba, you probably think sea, sun and beach. But Aruba has more to offer than that, there're different sort of activities you can do. A must see when you are at Aruba, is the Aruba Ostrich Farm.

Although Africa is the native land of the ostrich, this intriguing bird finds a perfect home in Aruba's rugged landscape. The Aruba Ostrich Farm welcomes you to come and meet its 80-count flock of the largest living species in the world.

Visitors are encouraged to partake in a guided tour of the farm, inhabited by both ostriches and their flightless Australian relatives, emus. The tour provides the opportunity to learn about the natural behavior and survival instincts of these amazing creatures through detailed information as well as per-

sonal encounters with the birds.

Before or after the tour, guests are welcome to peruse the African Art Shop, chock-full of authentic goods from South Africa. Or simply relax in the shade of the sprawling Savanna Lodge Bar & Restaurant and sample a delicious ostrich meat dish. Enjoy the panoramic views of the island's northern coast while sipping on a fruity shake or frosty beer from the bar.

The Aruba Ostrich Farm is dedicated to providing a memorable and unique experience for all guests. It's one of the things you have to do when you are at Aruba.

The ostrich farm is located along the road leading to the Natural Bridge (Mati-vidiri 57). Opening hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with tour ever half hour. Kitchen opening hours are from 10:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.

## Comedy On the Beach at the Westin Resort & Casino

Popular ventriloquist and stand-up comedian Michael Harrison, will bring his cutting-edge comedy to the Westin Resort Aruba, Magic Live!® theater on Monday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 1, as part of his "CHICHEN, CHICKEN, CHICKEN: World Tour."

Michael Harrison is an extraordinarily talented ventriloquist, comedian, and puppeteer. He has worked alongside numerous acts, from The Muppets to Boyz to Men. He also headlined for some of the world's most luxurious cruise lines including Princess, Norwegian, Royal Caribbean and Holland America. His many talents allow him to create performances for all type of audiences; adults, kids and family. Companies such as, Verizon Wireless and Sandals Resorts have booked his corporate comedy act. His family show is so finely tuned that Disney, the world's largest entertainment company, booked him for 8 consecutive years and over 1500 performances as the headline act for Disney Cruise Line.

Michael wrote and starred in the award winning television show, "Kids in the Fire-hall." The show aired on the Family Channel in Canada and on Nickelodeon in the US. It was awarded the prestigious Bronze Apple from the National Educational Media Network, the Award of Excellence



in Children's Television by the Parents Choice Foundation and the Award of Merit from The Alliance for Children and Television.

Michael recently took his talents to a new level when he appeared on the hugely successful television show, "America's Got Talent." He

was the only ventriloquist chosen to compete this year for the grand prize of 1 million dollars and the opportunity to perform in Las Vegas. He finished in the top 50 as a semi-finalist and received glowing reviews from the celebrity judges, David Hassel-

hoff, Sharon Osborne and Piers Morgan. They auditioned a record 25,000 acts for this year's show, which averaged over 12 million viewers for NBC.

Tickets to both shows are available at the door on the night of the performance.

Show starts at 9:00 p.m.



## Natalee Holloway sequel to air on Lifetime TV

Lifetime TV has a sequen to The Natalee Holloway Story in production, according to a news report on February 24, 2011. The Natalee Holloway Story, starring Tracy Pollen as Natalee's mom Beth Twitty, debuted in 2009. Since the television drama premiered, there have been many twists and turns in the case of the Alabama teenager who disappeared in Aruba while on spring break.

The Lifetime TV movie will include the dramatic events of last year, including Van der Sloot's alleged extortion of money from Beth Twitty in exchange for information about Natalee's whereabouts, Beth learning that he used the money to go to Peru where he was accused of murdering another woman and Beth's trip to Castro-Castro to confront Van Der Sloot



**Tracy Pollen stars as Natalee Holloway**

face-to-face.

The cast of the Natalee Holloway sequel includes Tracy Pollan as Beth Twitty and Steven Arnell as Joren Van der Sloot.

Vander Sloot is currently incarcerated in Castro Castro prison in Lima, Peru pending trail. He is accused of murdering women in Lima.





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## Now hiring: enthusiastic polesitters Annual Polesitting Championships at Café the Plaza are in early June



Last year's polesitters

The long weekend surrounding Ascension Day should be blocked out in everyone's diary: it is the four days of fun of the annual Polesitting Championships. Seven polesitters will try and sit on their perches for hours and days on end in an effort to break the incredible record of 87 hours and fifteen minutes. Last year's championship ended in victory

for Heidi Schippers and Liesbeth Croes. Their colleague Kevin Immerzeel had to give up after 40 hours. Café the Plaza hopes that another great bunch of fun-loving, hardy polesitters will be registering for the event, which is held from June 2 through Sunday, June 5. Registration is open!

The championships have a yearly changing charity, to

which part of the money is generated by the polesitters is donated. Last year, the Aruba Donkey Foundation received a cheque of a whopping AWG. 17.500,-- for their efforts. The 2011 charity of choice is not yet known: it is early days, but as soon as Café the Plaza manager Martin gets confirmation, it will be published. The volunteers of the charities in question are always super busy, organizing fundraising games and raffles for their cause.

The polesitters get five minutes per hour 'off': this means that they can walk around, stretch, run or get a massage during that time. They do need to be back on their poles on the dot, however, otherwise they will be disqualified. The sitters may save up their five-minute breaks and get a quarter of an hour off after three hours of sitting. Volunteers will be monitoring, assisting and making all kinds of efforts to keep everyone awake and happy. For more information, interested polesitters can call Café the Plaza at tel. 583-8826

## Roland is on the look-out for friends and family members



We would like to introduce Roland to you, one of the donkeys living at the Aruban Donkey Sanctuary. A big, fuzzy sweetheart of a donkey, who has stolen the hearts of all the volunteers. Roland can always be found in the company of his friend Pepper. Roland always grooms Pepper, so the volunteers hardly need to brush him. This grooming entails softly biting the fur and scouring, cleaning the donkey in the process. The hooves keep their right length because of the many stones that are on the property: the hooves wear themselves down this way. Roland is a model donkey: always friendly, always happy and quiet. He loves to watch the action from a distance.

Roland has a chip, just like the other donkeys. This way he can be recognized and all his medical information is on it. The donkeys at the sanctuary are well-cared for: they get their food and drink and when they are sick the vet is called. Yes, they are expensive customers. The volunteers try to cover the cost by organizing all kinds of activities and by selling nice souvenirs in the store. Fortunately there are visitors

who adopt a donkey now and then, who donate money or who buy something in the store. They help keep the sanctuary afloat that way.

The volunteers are now looking for people who wish to adopt Roland. He will stay at the sanctuary, of course; the only thing that is needed is that AWG. 30,-- per month is paid for his keep. This way you help support this wonderful donkey as well as the sanctuary. You will receive a nice document and a super T-shirt. And if you like, your name and photo will be posted on our website.

The sanctuary is open on weekdays from 9 – 4 p.m. and in the weekends from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; visitors are always welcome. The sanctuary is also a great place to drink cup of coffee or a juice or eat an ice cream.

Please call the Donkey Sanctuary at 593 2933 and become Roland's new family member; you can also register as an adoptive parent via our website [www.arubandonkey.org](http://www.arubandonkey.org). or deposit your donation on our Aruba Bank account 40.03.025.

Please help!



## COMICS



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## PICKLES



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## CROSSWORD

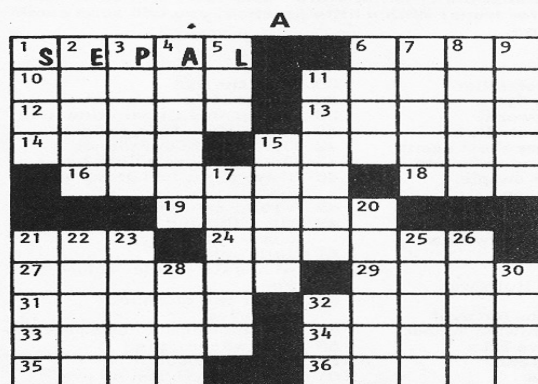


## CROSSWORD

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www.themorningnewsaruba.com

## TWIN CROSSWORDS

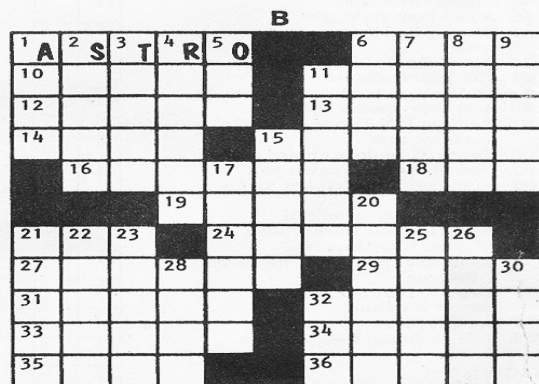
Two clues for each number and two puzzle diagrams—which answer goes where? Answer the clues, and then decide in which crossword diagram the answer fits. The first two words have been entered for you.



## DOWN

1. Hindu garment
2. Indian title
3. Commonplace
4. Type of yarn
5. \_\_\_\_ Marvin
6. Husband: Fr.
7. Turkish title
8. Arias
9. Prophets
11. Small house
15. Crawl
17. Church split
20. Vendor
21. Marble
22. Kris Kringle
23. Duck
25. Open space in a forest
26. Polished
28. Tardy
30. Mine outputs
32. Little, to Burns
- Quantity: abbr.

- ACROSS
1. Houston player
  6. Health spots
  10. More scarce
  11. Gallery
  12. Cookstove
  13. Old woman
  14. Division word
  15. Swimmer
  16. Of the back
  18. Road curve
  19. Zoom along
  21. Commercials
  24. Inns
  27. Dried grape
  29. Tattle
  31. South American
  32. Shade tree
  33. Dyes
  34. Fight
  35. Rim
  36. Common contraction



Courtesy of

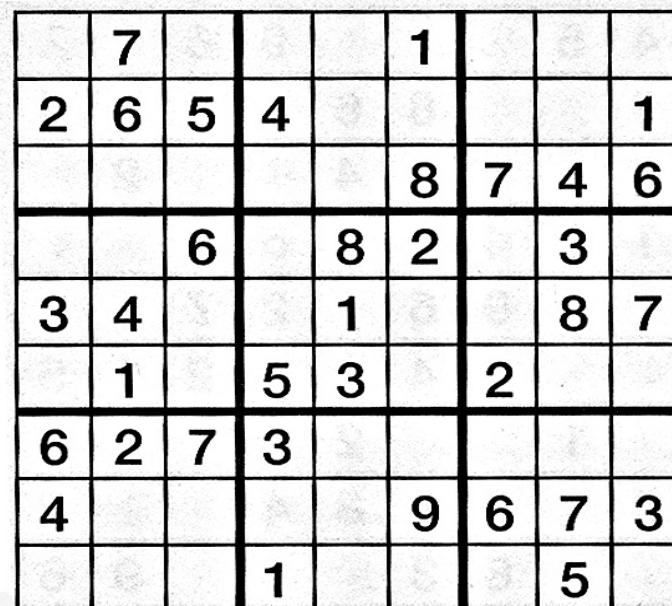


February 26 - March 5

Dakota: "Botica Dakota ; S.N. : "Aloe N.V."

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Fri.-Sun. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.CAS MARIE  
Alzheimer's Day  
Care Center  
Tel: 5696910Important  
Telephone  
NumbersHOSPITAL  
Horacio Oduber Hospital  
Tel. 587-4300EMERGENCY  
Telephone 911  
POLICE HDQS  
Telephone 100TAXI  
C.V. TAS  
587-1998, 587-5900  
In Oranjestad:  
Tel. 582-2116, 582-1604  
582-5447  
In San Nicolas  
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602  
professional taxi services  
Tel. 588-0035Al Anon Meetings  
Mondays 6-7pm  
Sabana Liber 8 in Noord  
Tel: 5673356 / 5838989

## Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	9	7	4	9	1	8	6	6
8	2	9	6	2	8	1	5	7
8	1	6	9	7	8	2	9	
6	9	2	7	8	9	8	1	2
2	8	9	1	6	2	7	8	
7	8	1	2	8	2	9	6	9
9	7	2	8	9	2	6	8	1
1	6	8	8	2	7	9	9	2
5	2	8	1	6	9	7	2	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.





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## Finance

### BRIEFS:

#### British economic recovery falters in fourth quarter:

**LONDON (AFP)** – Britain's economy shrank by a worse-than-expected 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter, official data showed Friday, as harsh wintry weather hampered prospects of a swift recovery. Gross domestic product (GDP) -- the total value of goods and services produced in the economy -- contracted 0.6 percent in the three months to December, the Office for National Statistics said in statement.

The reading was revised down from an earlier estimate of a 0.5 percent fall, and marks the largest GDP drop since the second quarter of 2009.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Brazil's Vale reports record mining sector profits:

**SAO PAULO (AFP)** – Brazil's mining giant Vale announced industry record net profits of 17.3 billion dollars last year, more than tripling 2009's figures thanks to a "stellar performance." Last week the world's top miner BHP Billiton posted half-year net profits of \$10.52 billion, up 72 percent.

Both sector giants are benefiting from emerging markets snapping up raw materials and the West edging out of its economic slump. Vale's 2010 results were 30 percent higher than its former record results registered in 2008.

The only minor hiccup was that its fourth quarter profits of 5.9 billion dollars ducked fractionally under the third quarter results.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Spain's Telefonica posts record 2010 net profit:

**MADRID (AFP)** – Spanish telecoms giant Telefonica posted a record 2010 net profit of 10.17 billion euros, a 30.8 percent jump over the previous year as weakness in Spain was offset by strong growth in the rest of Europe and Latin America.

Revenues rose 7.1 percent over the previous year to 60.7 billion euros (\$83.6 billion) as the company added clients and its mobile data business grew as customers upgraded to smartphones, the company said in a statement.

Telefonica, Europe's second-largest telecommunications company by market capitalisation behind Britain's Vodafone, said it targets growth in revenues in 2011 of up to 2.0 percent.

In fast-growing Latin America revenues rose 13.3 percent to 26 billion euros. Brazil accounted for 42.7 percent of the company's revenues in the region last year.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Fiat says to produce 300,000 cars a year in Russia:

**MILAN (AFP)** – Italian auto giant Fiat outlined plans to produce 300,000 cars per year in Russia, just days after it was replaced by Ford in a partnership there with Russian automobile group Sollers.

Fiat said it had sent a memorandum of intent to the Russian government that "envisages the establishment of manufacturing capacity for up to 300,000 vehicles per year," including passenger cars and commercial vehicles.

Fiat is merging with US auto giant Chrysler and has outlined plans for expansion in emerging markets. Industry analysts said the fall-out with Sollers may have happened after Fiat tried to drive too hard a bargain.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Using SEO To Drive Sales

### Using search engine optimization (SEO) is both a science and art.

A few years ago, SEO was fairly straightforward. Over time, as Google became predominant and made page relevance supreme, the game of SEO has changed. It now requires much more tedium, monitoring and adjusting of your keywords.

Large companies are paying high bid prices for popular keywords so they will show up high on the search results page. In addition, Google is constantly changing its algorithms to improve relevancy. So even if your page is high in the results today, this doesn't mean it will be high tomorrow. SEO is an ongoing process.

If you decided to use SEO yourself and you wanted to do it well, be prepared to invest in a good course to learn it, and then be prepared to spend some time every day giving it your attention. If you have the funds, it would be more efficient for you to outsource the SEO work and spend your time selling and marketing.

Now with that said, you do have to make sure that your existing web pages have relevant keywords in them so people looking for what you offer can find you.

Make sure your keywords

are in the page's Meta Tag, and make sure they are sprinkled throughout the text on the page.

The consensus appears to be that about 7% of the words on your page should be your keywords. If much less than that the relevancy of your page might drop. If much more than that, then Google might think you are "stuffing" your page and penalize you.

In addition to your keywords, if you keep your copy focused on your topic without much wandering, you'll be contributing to your page's relevancy.

All in all, you may find that using other methods to drive prospects to your site will work great to boost the number of people visiting your site.

For instance, you can use offline methods to drive people to your site. You can send out postcards that send prospects or customers to your website for a free report.

You can offer a free report on the back of your business card.

You can pass out flyers with your web address, offering people something free if they go to your site and opt in to your list.



For example, if you own a restaurant, you can offer a drawing for a free dinner for two once a week to people on your list. To qualify for the drawing, people have to go to your site and sign up.

Because you are doing SEO doesn't mean you are limited to Internet promotions and pay-per-click advertising. You can use a combination of both online and offline marketing to build your list and drive sales

To your success,  
**Ken Varga**  
Ph: 888-682-2596; Fax: 888-682-2597  
Email: [ken@kenvarga.com](mailto:ken@kenvarga.com)  
Website: [www.kenvarga.com](http://www.kenvarga.com)

## Red Crescent in Libyan aid effort overstretched: EU

**SOFIA, Bulgaria (AFP)** – The Red Crescent, which is the only humanitarian aid organisation currently on the ground in Libya, is already overstretched and facing a severe shortage of medical supplies, EU's Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva

"What particularly worries us is that with the exception of the local organisation of the Red Crescent -- which is already gasping for breath and cannot ensure enough medical services, especially in Benghazi -- there are practically no other structures that could join the (humanitarian) action," Georgieva told the Bulgarian national radio.

"What we hear is that there is need for medication, that the healthcare system is overpow-

ered," she added.

The Red Crescent has managed to mobilise only about 100 local volunteers working in Benghazi and even fewer in the capital Tripoli, Georgieva said.

The three very small UN representations in Libya -- of the UNICEF children's fund, the UN development programme and the World Health Organisation -- lack any operating capacity to help any humanitarian effort, she said.

"So our only hope is to manage to help via the Red Crescent and the Red Cross as they stand the best chance in these hard circumstances," Georgieva said.

The EU has also been trying to move its humanitarian aid workers over the Libyan

border with Egypt, she added, warning of the imminence of a humanitarian crisis as the situation in Libya "grows more and more serious by the hour."

### YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

S	C	A	L	A	R	A	P	T	R	I	O	T
H	O	N	E	R	E	R	L	E	A	R	T	E
A	L	I	V	E	P	R	I	G	M	A	T	E
G	A	L	E	N	A	E	A	S	E	D	E	N
					R	A	T	T	A	N	A	P
A	I	D	S	H	O	R	T	A	G	E		
T	R	O	T	L	O	S	S	E	N	E	C	A
T	A	R	H	E	E	L	S	P	R	A	Y	E
U	N	S	E	A	T	A	N	I	L	E	N	A
					F	R	E	E	B	O	R	N
R	H	E	T	T	R	A	B	I	E	S		
O	A	R	H	O	R	N	E	C	T	A	R	
T	R	A	P		N	A	D	A	D	O	O	N
E	S	S	E		E	T	O	N		L	O	R
S	H	E	A		R	A	N	D		E	P	E



## The Queen's offers an authentic taste of Aruba!



Varella, Luisa and the next generation of chef

One of the distinctions of Aruban cuisine is incorporating unique indigenous ingredients such as in Wild Cucumber Stew and a particular light fish chowder accompanied by the local specialties pan bati (corn meal pancake) and funchi (the local version of polenta.) Thus, eating out at the authentically Aruban res-

taurants into local cuisine. "We will definitely return to The Queen's," they affirmed, "the food was delicious and the prices are more than right."

The menu sports a variety of steaks and tenderloin, fresh caught seafood, Caribbean lobster, and of course, one of our favorites, and what we consider a true test of local cui-



Keeshi Yena with plantains & vegetables

rant, The Queen's, is very affordable, with a true taste of regional cuisine.

Owner Varella Innocencia confesses she opened her restaurant in Oranjestad because "I grew up with this, and loved serving people our island food. My father and mother operated the little restaurant across from the Americana, which some may remember, the original Arawak. I remember how much our customers loved trying the local food, and they especially loved the prices!"

Varella's mom, Luisa, is still in the kitchen, conjuring up the delicious dishes that have been in her family for generations, which is acknowledged on the menu with "Carni Stoba di Mamachi"- "Grandma's Beef Stew," and their Arawak Steak.

We also bumped into island visitors Jim and Callie from Michigan, who were eager to try island food, and were more than pleased with their venture

sine, "Keshi Yena"- "Filled Cheese." This is a tasty, filling stew of chicken, with other ingredients that are handy that day, all incased in a thick skin of melted Gouda. It was very satisfying and particularly memorable paired with The Queen's garlic bread and very special Pica, a mix of chopped onions and the famous local hot pepper, Madame Janette. Not overly spicy, it lent that perfect bit of tang to this deliciously picturesque meal.

Located next to the Harbor at the end of the Weststraat, The Queen's is open from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., daily, offering indoor and outdoor dining. They also have daily specials, aside from an extensive menu; made from whatever is in season.

We noticed a steady stream of islanders coming for lunch in the pleasant surroundings or picking up take-out containers; always a sure sign of a winner is where the locals like to eat!

## Buster's Garage in South Beach Center: One place for the whole family

Buster's Garage, a New York City landmark, made its way to Aruba about a year ago, and found a new home at the South Beach Center across from the Radisson Resort. Dedicated to the sports fanatic, the spacious but homey interior is the perfect place to keep up with your favorite team and have a great meal.

Fun for all the family, Buster's has typical sport bar fare such as chicken wings, quesadillas, calamari rings for munching while watching the main event on 24 giant plasma screens. Every seat is good seat for catching all the action. Open from noon for lunch or dinner, it has plenty of distractions for the younger crowd, including foosball, and a video arcade, so Mom and Dad can relax and enjoy their meal.

The moderately priced menu includes all your favorite finger foods and a great selection of local and imported beers. Customer reviews gave Buster's Garage 4.5 stars out of 5 on yellow-pages-aruba.com; one declared "my wife and I happened to stumble upon it -but what a find!" Another stated "Owner Rusty is so down to earth. The food was very good and the prices were outstanding for the High-Rise area. Aruba needed a place like this."

Buster's regularly organizes special events with live music. At 10 p.m. it turns into a cozy adult hangout; 18 years and over only allowed, with a DJ on duty nightly and boasting the only beerpong table on Aruba. Aside from a great place to root for the home team or your favorites during playoffs and championships, they regularly carry



all UFC fights & WWE events.

Buster's is a great place where island visitors and res-

idents mix and mingle; Monday to Thursday they close at 2:00 a.m., weekends at 4:00 a.m.

## UK royal couple visit university where love bloomed

ST ANDREWS, Scotland — Prince William and fiancée Kate Middleton returned to the university where they met and fell in love yesterday with an official visit to St Andrews on the east coast of Scotland.

It was at the picturesque university that they got to know each other in 2001 as undergraduates studying art history. They went on to share a house on the outskirts of town and their romance blossomed.

Ten years on, and the royal pair are one of the world's most famous couples, their every move scrutinized by the inter-

national media as preparations are made for their wedding in London's Westminster Abbey on April 29.

"This is a very special moment for Catherine and me," the prince said in a brief speech. "It feels like coming home."

Middleton then greeted hundreds of well-wishers who had lined the streets to see the couple.

Friday's visit to mark the university's 600th anniversary follows their first official outing as a couple on Thursday, where Middleton's ap-



pearance was lauded in the royalty-obsessed British media.



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**UNITED STATES, KENNEDY SPACE CENTER :** The space shuttle Discovery lifts off February 24, 2011 from Kennedy Space Center in Florida on a mission to the International Space Station. This will be the 39th and final flight for Discovery.

AFP PHOTO

## 'Runaway millionaire' arrested in NZ: police

WELLINGTON (AFP) – A woman who allegedly fled New Zealand with her Chinese partner after a bank mistakenly deposited millions of dollars into his account was arrested on Friday, police said.

Kara Hurring and Hui (Leo) Gao left for China shortly after Westpac bank accidentally placed NZ\$10 million (US\$7.5 million) into Gao's account in April 2009. Gao had requested a NZ\$100,000 dollar overdraft. The error was discovered within days but by then some

NZ\$6.78 million had allegedly been transferred into other accounts and the pair had left the country. Police met and arrested 31-year-old Hurring at Auckland airport after she voluntarily returned to New Zealand.

"Obviously this is an extremely positive development however, the investigation is by no means over," said Senior Sergeant Mark Loper. Police said about half the money had been recovered but some NZ\$3,872,000 was still missing.

## Indigenous Ecuadoran woman humbles US oil giant

RUMIPAMBA, Ecuador (AFP) – She has no legal training, and doesn't speak the Spanish that dominates government in Quito but indigenous villager Maria Aguinda helped bring a landmark judgment against US oil giant Chevron for polluting the rain forest she calls home.

The diminutive grandmother whose modest home sits near marshes clogged for decades in sticky oil has been at the heart of the David-and-Goliath case, and spoke out after Chevron was slapped last week with a \$9.5-billion fine, among the heaviest ever handed down for environmental damage.

"Before I die they have to pay me for the dead animals, and for what they did to the river, and the water and the earth," the 61-year-old Aguinda told AFP at her home in Rumipamba, a town in remote Orellana province where pollution caused by 30 years of oil drilling and petroleum accidents had become a sad fact of life.

Texaco operated in the area between 1964 and 1990, and was bought in 2001 by Chevron, which inherited Texaco's legal nightmare.

"The demand (for compen-



**Ecuadoran indigenous villager Maria Aguinda, seen here at her house at the Rumipamba commune,**

sation) is going on track," said the ethnic Quechua woman, pointing to a nearby spot marked by spillage from an oil well run by Texaco in the 1970s.

"Mary Aguinda et al" are the opening words of the suit launched in 1993 on behalf of 30,000 residents of Orellana and Sucumbios provinces.

Aguinda said she believes her husband and two of his 10 children died from effects of the pollution, which rights group Amazon Watch says has affected an area the size of the US state of Rhode Island.

Several of her family members "have skin problems, like fungus," Aguinda said as she

lifted her granddaughter's foot off the dirt floor to show an outbreak on her leg.

Chevron blames state-run Petroecuador, with which Texaco formed a consortium from 1972 until the US firm departed in 1992, of not doing its part in the clean-up agreed with the state.

The court last week announced a penalty against Chevron of \$8.6 billion with an additional 10 percent for environment management costs.

The plaintiffs, too, plan to appeal, saying the ruling fails to adequately compensate for certain damages and illness. They were seeking more than \$27 billion in their suit.

## New Charlie Sheen outburst as hit TV series canceled

LOS ANGELES (AFP) – The producers of hit TV series "Two and a Half Men" canceled the show for the season after a new outburst by troubled actor Charlie Sheen -- who promptly launched another tirade.

CBS and Warner Brothers made the announcement after Sheen, who was briefly hospitalized last month following his latest reported booze and drugs-fueled partying mishap, denounced the show's co-creator Chuck Lorre.

"Based on the totality of Charlie Sheen's statements, conduct and condition, CBS and Warner Bros. Television have decided to discontinue production of 'Two and a Half Men' for the remainder of the season," they said in a statement.

Sheen, son of actor Martin Sheen, has become nonstop tabloid fodder with escapades allegedly involving hard drugs, heavy drinking, prostitutes and porn actresses.

He checked into rehab four weeks ago after being rushed to hospital with "severe abdominal pains" from a reported drug- and booze-fueled bender



with five women at his Los Angeles home.

The star filed for divorce from his wife of two years in November, days after being taken to hospital following a reported drunken incident at a luxury New York hotel involving another porn star.

In addition to his reported substance abuse, Sheen had several run-ins with the law in the 1990s in cases related to drugs, domestic violence and prostitution.

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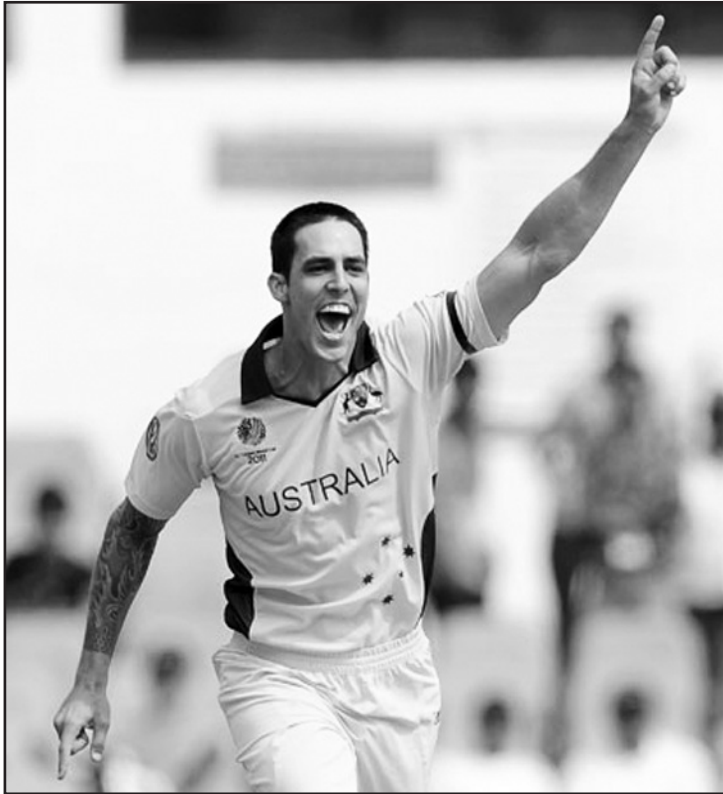
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# Aussies cruise past emotional Kiwis at World Cup



**Australian cricketer Mitchell Johnson celebrates having New Zealand batsman Jesse Ryder caught behind during the Cricket World Cup match between Australia and New Zealand**

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Australia racked up a 25th consecutive World Cup victory on Friday, comfortably defeating New Zealand in a match played out against the raw emotional background of the Christchurch quake.

Australia, the defending champions and aiming for a fourth successive title, won by seven wickets in Nagpur as Mitchell Johnson took 4-33 to help limit the Black Caps to just 206.

Nathan McCullum top-scored for the Kiwis with 52 before Aussie opener Shane Watson hit 62 as the champions reached their target with 16 overs to spare.

"New Zealand are a very competitive team and for us to win as well as we have is pretty satisfying," said Australian captain Ricky Ponting, whose side sit top of Group A with two wins in two matches.

Earlier, all the players wore black armbands while a minute's silence was held to remember the victims of the Christchurch earthquake which has claimed at least 113 lives.

As television cameras panned around the VCA ground they found a small knot of Kiwi fans with one spectator holding aloft a simple message on a plain white piece of paper that said: "Thinking of you Christchurch."

Black Caps skipper Daniel Vettori said: "It would be un-

fair to the people who are going through a lot worse than we are over here to say that was the reason we didn't play very well today," he said.

"We're professional sportsmen and we have to get up for these games."

Meanwhile, Indian cricket chiefs apologised to thousands of fans left short-changed by the World Cup's deepening ticket chaos.

Tournament director Ratnakar Shetty, who is also the

chief administrative officer of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), admitted fans had been let down.

However, he said contractual obligations had complicated ticket distribution.

"We are sorry the fans have been let down," said Shetty. "We understand their sentiments but we can't do much."

On Thursday, frustrations boiled over when baton-wielding police clashed with fans after thousands queued to buy tickets for Sunday's high-profile clash between India and England at Bangalore's M. Chinnaswamy stadium.

Several people were injured as police attempted to keep order among the throng estimated to be 30,000-strong.

All 7,000 tickets put on sale sold out within hours.

Around 3,000 police will be on duty for Sunday's game, a Bangalore police spokesman said.

India had an injury scare for that game on Friday when in-form opener Virender Sehwag suffered a rib injury in the nets.

But Sehwag, who smashed a blazing 175 in the opening win over Bangladesh, has been passed fit to play.

Australia were not so lucky with fast bowler Doug Bollinger, forced to pull out of the rest of the tournament with an ankle injury.

## Bangladesh defeat Ireland in dramatic win

DHAKA (AFP) - Bangladesh stung flat-footed Ireland to resurrect their World Cup campaign with a 27-run victory in front of some 25,000 boisterous home fans on Friday.

Bangladesh, bowled out for 205 after taking first strike in the day-night match, hit back to dismiss the leading non-Test nation for 178 in 45 overs at the packed Sher-e-Bangla stadium.

Former captain Mohammad Ashraful, who scored just one run, turned an unlikely hero with the ball by claiming two top-order wickets with his part-time off-spin.

Skipper Shakib Al Hasan also picked up two wickets with left-arm spin before seamer Shafiul Islam polished off the tail in quick time with 4-21 from eight overs.



Bangladesh, who had lost their first match to India last



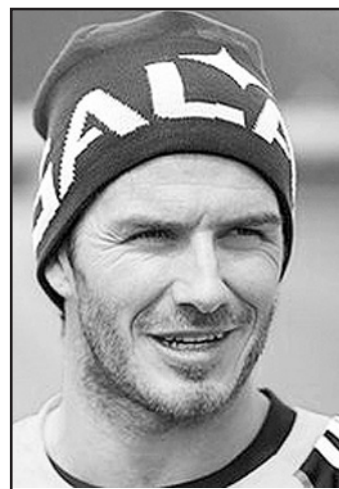
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## Beckham reports back at LA Galaxy from Spurs



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - David Beckham finally reported to the Los Angeles Galaxy's training camp on Thursday to begin what is expected to be his final season in Major League Soccer.

Beckham, whose contract expires in November, spent the past six weeks training with English side Tottenham

but says he is now shifting his focus to helping the Galaxy get off to a good start this season.

"I could have been sitting on a beach somewhere, which obviously was an option," said Beckham on Thursday.

"I am happy to be back and I am happy to see some sun."

"I only missed a few weeks with the lads here but it was important for my fitness that I continue with my (training) level there and come back fitter than I was last season."

Due to injuries and commitments overseas, Beckham played just seven games with the southern California team last season.

On Thursday, both he and Galaxy coach Bruce Arena downplayed reports that Beckham had been trying to work out a loan agreement with Tottenham.

"It is like I have been saying all along, David will be back and play for the Galaxy," Arena said. "We never thought he wasn't going to be back."

Beckham said he went to Tottenham to get a head-start on training for the MLS season and to compete with players at Premier League level.

Beckham, who turns 36 in May, reports to Los Angeles less than three weeks before the season starts.

The midfielder, who took a tumble during one shooting drill on Thursday but quickly jumped back to his feet, said he felt good on the pitch and that there were no effects of jet-lag from the long flight.

"Since the fourth of January I have been training at a high level," Beckham said. "At my age and at this stage in my career, I can't afford to take three months' holiday."

"So I took the opportunity to go to Spurs and train down there."

week, lapped up the pressure in a game they had to win to stay in contention for the quarter-finals from Group B.

But the co-hosts, who play all their league matches at home, must still beat the Netherlands and at least one of the established teams among England, South Africa and the West Indies.

The win helped Bangladesh avenge two successive defeats by Ireland in major events, having lost during the 2007 World Cup in the Caribbean and again in the 2009 World Twenty20 in England.

Mushfiqur Rahim and Raqibul Hasan lifted the hosts with a 61-run stand for the fifth wicket, before tailender Naeem Islam boosted the total with a defiant 29 towards the end.



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## Federer to meet Djokovic in Dubai final



Djokovic (L) Federer (L)

DUBA (AFP) - Roger Federer earned a chance of regaining one of his titles, and an early revenge upon Novak Djokovic, by reaching the final of the Dubai Open on Friday.

Federer, without a Grand Slam title for the first time in eight years, overcame Richard Gasquet, the gifted Frenchman who once beat him as a teenager, by 6-2, 7-5 to earn a second meeting with Djokovic inside four weeks.

It was the Serbian who beat the Swiss maestro last month in Melbourne before making off with his Australian Open title, and it is Djokovic who holds the title here as well.

"It's a huge obstacle to play Novak," admitted Federer, who may nevertheless have been encouraged by Djokovic's struggles in getting past Tomas Berdych, the man who beat him at Wimbledon but who retired with a thigh injury in the final set.

Djokovic, playing in hot temperatures, described his own performance as a "catastrophe", even though there was no doubting his desire

and determination as he survived by a scoreline of 6-7 (5-7), 6-2, 4-2, 30-love retired.

Federer by contrast played in the cool of the evening, when the air was thicker and the ball less fiery, which probably helped the top-seeded former champion to produce moments of beautifully controlled magic.

Federer also had an extra gear, which became evident only when Gasquet's level rose in the second set, thanks to fewer unforced errors and improved rhythm with some flamboyant ground strokes.

They helped the former world number seven to take a 5-3 lead, but they also goaded Federer into a trampling performance in the next four games, during which he allowed Gasquet only four more points.

He then celebrated victory with a well-practised wave and a half-smile which suggested his mind might already be on what was still to come.

Djokovic needed all this passion to prevent Berdych breaking back at 15-40 in the fifth game of the second set,



and this escape by the champion probably quashed the the third seed's last real hopes.

Asked to compare Saturday's scenario with the semi-final at the Australian Open, Djokovic pointed out that the conditions would be very different.

"In Australia (it was) really slow conditions, slow surface, ball bounces a bit higher. So it was more suitable to me.

"Still, I've played well over the years in this centre court, especially in night matches. So I look forward to it. It will be a big challenge."

Federer, clearly in the better form, sounded the more assertive.

"I'm confident I'm playing well," he said. "I haven't played poorly the last six months.

"I have another opportunity to win a tournament, so it's a good moment for me. I want to win, it doesn't matter how.

"As long as it's fair play and as long as Novak is at a hundred percent as well - I don't want to beat him at eighty percent. I just want to beat him fair and square."

## French radio to boycott United over 'racketeering'

PARIS (AFP) - French radio stations have vowed to boycott the Manchester United v Marseille Champions League clash next month over the "exorbitant" transmission fees being demanded by the English Premier League giants.

Radio France chief of sport Jacques Vendroux said United had demanded 26,000 euros from each French radio station wishing to cover the second leg of their last 16 clash at Old Trafford.

He indicated that the demand, the "most exorbitant sum" he had ever heard of, was all the more bizarre because English radio stations were able to cover the first leg in Marseille on Wednesday for free when the sides played to a scoreless draw.

As a result, he said Radio

France and its two sister stations France Info and Radio Bleu Provence, would be joined by RTL, Europe 1 and RMC in boycotting the match on March 15.

"Two weeks ago Manchester United asked us for 26,000 euros in transmission rights for each radio station while the English (radio stations) got to work for free in the first leg (in Marseille) on Wednesday," Vendroux told AFP.

"Now, we have all agreed that we will not cover the match."

He added: "It's the most exorbitant sum I've ever heard being asked for a football match since the start of the Champions League.

"It's totally unheard of. We won't be part of this racketeering".



**PLAYA DEL CARMEN, MEXICO - FEBRUARY 25:** Tommy Gainey hits a drive during the second round of the Mayakoba Golf Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun held at El Camaleon Golf Club on February 25, 2011 in Playa del Carmen, Mexico.





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## Aggressive Wozniacki blitzes Bartoli

DOHA (AFP) - Caroline Wozniacki blitzed Marion Bartoli in straight sets to storm into the final of the WTA Qatar Open here on Friday.

The world number one, who has been hardly pushed in Doha, once again came up with a commanding display to post a 6-1, 6-1 win and stay on course for a second title inside seven days, following her victory in the Dubai Open last Sunday.

"I am really happy with the way I played today, in fact throughout the tournament," the Danish top seed said.

"I really love playing in Doha and I am very happy that I am in the finals."

Wozniacki said she stuck to her strong point, which is her aggression, to dismantle Bartoli's game.

"It was important for me to start aggressively and keep the momentum, make her run a lot," said Wozniacki, who won in just 65 minutes, converting six of her eight break points and committing just 13 unforced errors compared to her rival's 23.

Wozniacki was on a seven match winning streak when she took the court on Friday, but had lost her two previous clashes against the Frenchwoman, in Stuttgart in 2009 and in Cincinnati last year.

But Bartoli's hopes of a hat-trick of wins against the current hottest player in the world vanished in a jiffy as the Dane established control over the match from the outset, hitting powerful winners on either flank and hardly allowing her rival any space to place her shots.

Wozniacki will now clash with the winner of the second semi-final between Serbian Jelena Jankovic and Russian Vera Zvonareva.

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## Grozny eye Brazil's retired Ronaldo

MOSCOW (AFP) - Terek Grozny, the small but ambitious side from Russia's war-torn Chechnya, are set to offer Brazil legend Ronaldo 8 million US dollars to reverse his retirement, a Moscow daily reported on Friday.

The news comes just a week after another club from Russia's volatile south, Anzhi Makhachkala, signed the veteran Brazilian defender Roberto Carlos on a two-year contract worth a reported two million dollars.

The Tvoi Den daily said direct talks between the Russian Premier League outfit and 34-year-old Ronaldo

will take place in Grozny on March 8, when some members of Brazil's 2002 World Cup-winning side arrive for an exhibition match.

It is thought Grozny are prepared to offer Ronaldo an 18-month contract.

Ronaldo, who announced his retirement last week, has been appointed to help co-ordinate Brazil's hosting of the 2014 World Cup.

Terek have been raising their profile since January, when they stunned the football world by announcing the signing of Dutch football legend Ruud Gullit as manager.

## Maradona keen on Spanish coaching job



MADRID (AFP) - Diego Maradona intends to continue his career as a coach and would like to work in Spain, the former Argentine great told Spanish sport daily Marca on Friday.

"My desire (to coach) remains intact and I reckon I could do it in Spain," said

Maradona.

"After the 2010 World Cup, I received two or three interesting proposals. But they didn't suit me. I thanked (the clubs) and said the time wasn't right.

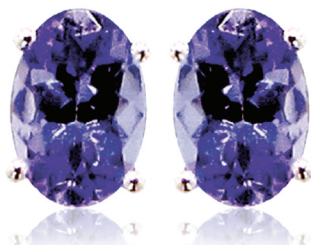
"But now that the summer has passed, I'm approaching things differently."

Maradona, 50, took charge of Argentina at last year's World Cup in South Africa but saw them thrashed 4-0 by Germany in the quarter-finals.

The Argentine Football Association (AFA) subsequently decided not to prolong his contract.

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